

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as now presently amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 32 and 33 have been canceled. Claims 1-31 and 36-50 have been previously canceled. Claim 34 has been amended. Claims 34 and 35 are active in the application.

Applicants acknowledge that Claims 34 and 35 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including the all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicants have re-written Claim 34 so as to generally include all of the features of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants believe that amended Claim 34 is allowable.

Claim 35 depends from amended Claim 34. Therefore, Applicants believe that Claim 35 is allowable for the reasons above stated in regard to amended Claim 34.

The above changes to the claims are self-evident from the original disclosure; thus, no new matter has been introduced, and no new issues have been raised.

Appl. No. 10/722,894
Amdt. dated May 11, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 6, 2004

Amendment A, continued

In view of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are definite and in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Date of Deposit: May 11, 2004

I hereby certify that this paper and/or fee is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class on the date indicated above and is addressed to:
Mail Stop Amendment
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

~~stap~~ Karl D. Kovach

By Karl D. Kovach
Karl D. Kovach
Reg. No.: 40,278
Stratos International, Inc.
Attorney for Applicants
7444 West Wilson Avenue
Chicago, Illinois 60706
(708) 867-9600